

U.S. Application Serial No.: 10/666,564
Amendment Dated October 2, 2006
In response to Office Action dated June 30, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-12, and 34-35 are in this application.

Claims 6 and 35 are currently canceled.

Claims 1-2, 5, 7-12, and 34 are currently pending in this application.

Claims 1-2, 5, 7-12, and 34 are currently amended.

The Office Action has objected to the Drawings broadly stating that the Drawings must show all the features specified in the claims without indicating any specific feature that is claimed but not shown in the Drawings.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office Action point out any specific feature that is claimed but not shown in the Drawings so that they could be amended to correct the alleged deficiency.

Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Office Action states:

"In claims 7-12, it is unclear and confusing to what is meant by and what shows the claimed structures in claims 7-12 as they apply to the elected species of figures 2a-2f. Where are the claimed structure detailed to show on the elected species?"

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Applicants respectfully request clarification regarding what is the basis of the rejection, what specific deficiency is being alleged, and what is being specifically requested to correct the alleged deficiency.

The claims are amended to define that the claimed structure has **discrete dielectric pillars** (rather than beams as in all of the cited art) supporting the lines so that the air gap is not only situated between the lines **laterally** but **also in a substantial portion of the region below the lines**.

Claims 1, 2, 5-12, 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over (1) Cotte et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,346,486); (2) Grill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,413,852); or (3) Grill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,737,725).

None of the references cited by the Office Action teach or suggest the currently pending claims 1-2, 5, 7-12, and 34 which define that the claimed structure has **discrete dielectric pillars** (rather than beams as in all of the cited art) supporting the lines so that the air gap is not only situated between the lines **laterally** but **also in a substantial portion of the region below the lines**.

These features are neither taught nor suggested by either Grill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,413,852), Grill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,737,725) or Cotte et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,346,486). Thus, none of the cited art teaches or suggests the structures defined by

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amended claims 1-2, 5, 7-12, and 34. Therefore, 1-2, 5, 7-12, and 34 are not obvious over the cited art and, as such, claims 1-2, 5, 7-12, and 34 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reexamination of this application and allowance of the pending claims, namely claims 1-2, 5, 7-12, and 34.

Respectfully submitted

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